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Emerging deception

A good tree, so the Lord tells us, cannot bear bad fruit, and neither can a bad tree bear good fruit (Matt. 7: 18). So what kind of fruit does Darwinian evolution bear? One answer may come from a rapidly growing phenomenon called the Emerging Church.

Roger Oakland, a creationist and a respected bible teacher, has made a particular study of this movement and has published his conclusions on his website at www.understandthetimes.org. He comments that one of the common features of the many groups under the "Emergent" umbrella is so-called spiritual formation, or centring meditation. In his book *Faith Undone* he makes it clear that this practice is actually based on the occult roots of Eastern mysticism and not on genuine Christian meditation at all. He goes on to demonstrate the postmodernist attitudes and assumptions of a number of the leaders of the Emerging Church movement, and how the timeless truths of the bible become casualties in the process.

It is noteworthy therefore that a further common feature of individuals and groups sympathetic to the aims of the Emerging Church is their attitude to creation and

evolution. Although creation is acknowledged, it is in the context of mankind's supposed evolutionary history and further aspirations. For example, the supposedly Christian authoress Margaret Silf writes in the prologue to her book *Roots and Wings* "It is also my belief that evolution is going somewhere, not just physically, but also spiritually, and this process may be much more than the passive unfolding of some blueprint written in the heavens or the genes. It may actually be a destiny we ourselves are shaping and co-creating in the way we choose to live and relate to each other and our earth."

This notion of evolving to attain a god-like status is noted by Ray Yungen, a close associate of Oakland, in his book *A Time of Departing*. He quotes the supposedly Christian authoress Sue Monk Kidd as saying, somewhat stridently, "The ultimate authority of my life is not the Bible...It is not from a source outside myself. My ultimate authority is the divine voice in my own soul. Period."

How significant it is that the devil's original deception as recorded in the book of Genesis was that Adam and Eve could become like God - and it is this very book that is attacked so much by the pseudo-scientific claims of Darwinian evolution. Bad fruit indeed.

Winging it

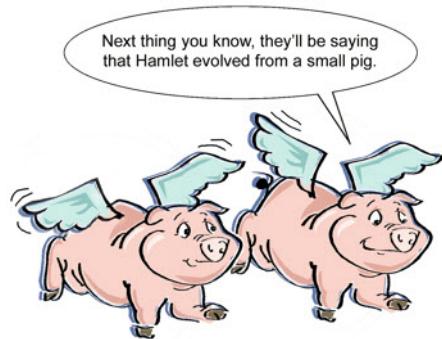
In an article in the *London Review of Books* for 18th October 2007 entitled 'Why Pigs don't have Wings', philosopher of science Jerry Fodor rejects natural selection as unworkable and claims evolution has left us 'a little crazy.' Although Fodor believes in evolution he says "...the classical Darwinist account of evolution as primarily driven by natural selection is in trouble on both conceptual and empirical grounds" and "If it does turn out that natural selection isn't what drives evolution, a lot of loose speculations will be stranded high, dry and looking a little foolish. Induction over the history of science suggests that the best theories we have today will prove more or less untrue at the latest by tomorrow afternoon. In science, as elsewhere, 'hedge your bets' is generally good advice."

But if that is so, then why is he so confident that evolution itself is true - shouldn't he 'hedge his bets' and follow his own advice? (Creationists generally accept natural selection, but consider it limited to variation within created kinds.)

Fodor further notes that we are all 'a little crazy' because he believes our minds have not evolved to suit our modern world. Eh? - is not the modern world built by human minds? And how would we know if we are all 'a little crazy'? As Darwin observed, "But then with me the horrid doubt always arises whether the convictions of man's mind [if developed by evolution] are of any value or at all trustworthy. Would anyone trust in the convictions of a monkey's mind, if there are any convictions in such a mind?" [Letter to W. Graham, July 3rd, 1881.]

Are you confused by Darwinism? - the Darwinists certainly seem to be.

Andrew Sibley



Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

2 February p.13 Finding the door to a parallel universe

Creationists claim that the universe is precisely suited for life and therefore must have been designed by a Creator. The evolutionists' answer to this is to postulate parallel universes. One of them got it all right, they say, and the fact that we can observe the precision shows that ours is the one that happens to be suited. The alleged parallel universes are joined by wormholes. **"Though no direct evidence for wormholes has been observed, this could be because they are disguised as black holes."** So, how can we tell these two kinds of objects apart? **"His idea assumes the existence of a bizarre substance called 'phantom matter', which has been proposed to explain how wormholes stay**

open. Phantom matter has negative energy and negative mass, so it creates a repulsive effect that prevents the worm-hole closing.”

While admitting that these ideas are “**more hypothetical than observational**” they don’t reject them out of hand. “**It’s an interesting thing to think about, maybe after a few beers.**”

And evolutionists are fond of saying that creationists are loonies!

2 February p.16 Let us celebrate Darwin “Religious leaders need to get together with scientists to explain that there is no inherent conflict between evolution and faith, says Michael Zimmerman.” The author, a biology professor from Indiana, founded the Clergy Letter project in 2004, designed to mobilize religious leaders to explain to their flock that God used evolution as a mechanism to create everything. On ‘Darwin Day’, the Sunday closest to Darwin’s birthday on February 12th, sermons could be preached extolling the virtues of this 19th century prophet. Not everything is going according to plan. “**Consider a few recent international headlines. A business consortium in the UK, operating as a charity called the AH Trust, is hunting for a site to construct a creationist theme park. Romania has removed evolution from its official school curriculum... Approximately 45 per cent of Americans continue to believe that God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so.**” Darwin Day fever is expected to peak next year when 12/2/09 celebrates the bicentenary of Darwin’s birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his book *On the Origin of Species*. To rise to the occasion, CSM has published the book *Has*

Darwin had his Day? It is packed with recent quotations from secular scientists pointing out the difficulties of Darwinism, and is obtainable from CSM at £8-45 incl. P&P.

2 February p.48 Time to nail inflation

The Lawrence Krauss page is referring to inflation theory, the idea that immediately after the proposed Big Bang that allegedly formed the universe out of nothing, space expanded much faster than the speed of light. Without this adjustment, the Big Bang theory does not add up.

“Inflationary models, however, are so robust and malleable that it sometimes seems they can be tweaked to fit any observations – and from a scientific perspective, that’s a problem. To decide whether a theory bears physical truth, one must be able to falsify it; a theory that can accommodate any observation is not a scientific theory at all.”

Krauss is sure that inflation theory “**does not quite fit the category of ‘unfalsifiable’**”. He fears that NASA could spend a lot of money on an experiment, but a negative result would still not invalidate the theory. As Eric Lerner has pointed out, when the Big Bang theory is so reliant on unprovable hypotheses, it is time to go back to the drawing board. A good place to start would be Genesis chapter one.

9 February p.8 Is there anybody out there?

“The hunt for extraterrestrial intelligence has yielded barely a hint of any alien civilisations. Now the search is stepping up a gear. The silence has been deafening. After almost 50 years of combing the skies, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) hasn’t heard a peep from any alien neighbours.”

“But last year, the first of the 42 dishes that will make up the Alien Telescope Array began operation. This will be dedicated entirely to SETI... Improvements to computing power should also help SETI to speed up... He estimates that the SETI efforts will have surveyed more than a million star systems by 2028. If there’s anything to be heard, he says, we should hear it by then. ‘If it remains silent after that, then that will be the time to rethink.”

Maybe before then we shall all hear the voice of the archangel and the trump of God as the Lord Himself descends from heaven with a shout! (I Thess. 4:16.)

9 February p.22 Reality check required
“When physicists whisk us into the realms of multiverses and universe-gobbling particles, it’s time to ask whether there’s something amiss.

“One of the biggest sell-out lectures at last year’s Hay-on-Wye festival in Wales starred the UK’s astronomer royal, Martin Rees, who entertained his audience with a discussion of the possibility, indeed the probability, of multiple worlds – endless parallel realities existing in a gargantuan super-reality that makes what we think of as the universe as insignificant as a gnat on an elephant’s back-side.

“Fun yes, but is it harmless? Scientists, and people like me who stick up for science, are happy to pour scorn on astrologers, homeopaths, UFO-nutters, crop-circlers and even the Adam-and-Eve brigade, who all happily believe in six impossible things before breakfast with no evidence at all. Show us the data, we say to these deluded souls. Where are your trials? What about Occam’s razor – the principle that any explanation should be as simple as possible?

“The danger is that on the wilder shores of physics these standards are not met either. There is yet no observational evidence for cosmic strings. It’s hard to test for a multiverse.

“Are we not prejudiced against some kinds of very unlikely ideas in favour of others?”

The prejudice against the Adam-and-Eve brigade has a spiritual dimension. Human nature has not changed since before the flood, when men said to God ‘Depart from us’. (Job 22:16-17) They were cut down out of time.

16 February p.18 Earliest bats had no use for echoes

“The earliest fossil bat yet found suggests that the species’ trademark echolocation had yet to evolve.”

The fossil, found in the ‘52-million-year-old Green River formation in Wyoming’ lacked the special ear-bone structure needed to use reflected sound.

Two other facts are mentioned: (a) “Like some modern bats, it might also have used ‘passive audition’ such as listening out for sounds that insects make when they crash into vegetation” and (b) Fossils of another bat... found in the same rock, have skull bones consistent with echolocation.”

Some bats use echolocation, some don’t, both in the past and the present. Echolocation involves throat, ears and brain with ears closing for the split second during sound emission but opening in time for the echo. The brain calculates the direction and distance to the insect reflecting the sound, and increases the rate of clicks while lowering their volume as the bat closes in on its flying target. This irreducible complexity did not evolve.

Moreover, the Green River formation is where the bats were buried in a swirling

slurry only thousands of years ago, not where they lived.



A fruit bat - a species that does not use echolocation.

16 February p. 40 Engines of evolution

Proponents of Intelligent Design (ID) have cited the bacterial flagellum, with its 40 proteins working together to propel the bacterium, as being of such irreducible complexity that its structure requires a Designer (a Creator).

"Modern biology, of course, has no need for omniscient designers. Evolution – Richard Dawkins' blind watchmaker – is all that is needed to explain the origin of complexity in nature. Even so, latter-day Paleys continue to search for evidence of design in the living world. The bacterial flagellum has become their

cause célèbre – and a focal point in science's ongoing struggle against unreason."

In their ongoing struggle, evolutionists have discovered 'type III secretion systems' (T3SSs), a class of molecular machine used by *Salmonella* to pump toxins into its victims. It typically has 15 to 20 proteins embedded in the cell wall.

"The evolutionary events linking flagella and T3SSs are not clear, but the homology between them is a devastating blow to the claim of irreducible complexity."

The process by which one evolved into the other, or both evolved from an ancestor, is said to be gene duplication followed by mutations and natural selection. After all both types of bacteria have similar molecular units. But cats and camels both have four legs, but this is not proof of common ancestry. One cannot rule out special design of both bacteria.

"Whatever the outcome of this new debate, its very existence is another two-fingered salute to the opponents of evolution. 'Critics of evolution argue that Darwinian evolutionary theory has become a dogma that no one dare question,' says Miller. 'Yet who tore into the study? Other scientists.'

But they did not tear into this study in order to question Darwinism. They devoted all their energies to it to find a response to ID's cause célèbre!

What they found were other organisms with components of a similar design. *Salmonella* is also irreducibly complex.

23 February p.28 The roots of music

"... our musical roots run deep: even before our ancestors could speak, they probably sang to one another. Darwin was the first to suggest this..."

"Are we the only species that truly appreciates music?"

“Monkeys aren’t so different from us, evolutionarily speaking, but if you thought they might have similar tastes in music to humans, you will be surprised... Unlike humans with our diverse preferences, the monkeys chose silence above any sort of music every time. Most baffling of all, though, is the discovery that monkeys do not seem to discriminate between melodious tunes and the sorts of discordant sounds that many people would consider a form of torture.”

Teenagers excepted, of course!

The article then moves on from our philistine cousins to birds. **“Researchers found that if they played a tune to starlings, zebra finches or pigeons, and then transposed it up or down an octave, the birds did not hear the same song. Instead they seemed to hear two different lists of absolute tones. Likewise, capuchin monkeys who learned to respond to a tune to get food did not recognise their food music if it was transposed by an octave.**

“Unlike McDermott’s monkeys, Watanabe’s sparrows also appeared to engage with the music, showing clear preferences for the prettier, more harmonious excerpts and choosing to listen to these rather than sit in silence.”

Songbirds, however, are creative, arranging sets of notes into phrases and larger themes akin to our melodies. Some can vary rhythm and pitch. Humpback whales combine themes of 2 minutes duration into songs of perhaps 12 minutes, singing in breeding grounds in season.

Music, at least in humans, has a feel-good factor, producing endorphins in the brain. So, from the beginning when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy (Job 38), through the songs of the redeemed throughout history, to that future eternity when we will sing around the throne, joy will be unconfined.

Darwin’s ‘ancestors’ have no idea what they have missed.

Incidentally, one of the contributors to this story expressed his mystification as to why humans had evolved such an amazing ability as singing.

23 February p.40 Strings attached

“Cosmic string bears little relation to its humble domestic namesake. Forming lines of energy billions of light years long, it is narrower than a proton, and so dense that a piece 1 metre long weighs as much as an entire continent... It moves at almost the speed of light, shaking the fabric of space and time.”

And they say that those who believe in a Creator lack reason!

“Although we have never seen it, many cosmologists are now convinced it is out there... It all hinges on the original theory of cosmic string being right.

“If these things (giant superstrings) did form in the early universe, then more of them would have survived, perhaps as many as a thousand. It is even possible that they would knot together into a taut cat’s cradle stretching across the universe. Discovering them would be really big news. String theory has often been criticised as a theorist’s plaything, a pretty piece of mathematics unable to make any testable predictions.”

1 March p.35 What missing link?

The writer Donald Prothero claims that the fossil record is replete with intermediate forms that give an almost unbroken record of biological evolution. This is despite leading palaeontologist the late Stephen Jay Gould’s assertion in 1977 that ‘the extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of palaeontology.’

Prothero admits that “**Darwin spent two chapters of his book apologising for the paucity of the fossil record, but predicted that it would eventually support his ideas.**”

He omits to mention that David Raup, Curator of Geology in Chicago Field Museum of Natural History wrote in 1979 that ‘we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time. By this I mean that some of the classic cases of Darwinian change in the fossil record, such as the evolution of the horse in North America, have had to be discarded or modified as a result of more detailed information.’

Prothero is oblivious to this. “**Darwin’s 1859 prediction that transitional forms would be found was quickly confirmed. In 1861 the first specimen of *Archaeopteryx* – a classic transitional form between dinosaurs and birds – was discovered, and in the 1870s the iconic sequence of fossil horses was documented. By the time of Darwin’s death in 1882 there were numerous fossils and fossil sequences showing evolutionary change, especially among invertebrates.**” Is this writer unaware that *Archaeopteryx* has the flight feathers of a true bird, and a fully avian brain? Dinosaurs and birds use 3 different digits of their respective pentadactyl limbs.

According to Prothero: “**Evidence of evolution in the fossil record has vastly increased since then (1882). Yet the idea still persists that the fossil record is too patchy to provide good evidence of evolution. One reason for this is the influence of creationism. Foremost among their tactics is to distort or ignore the evidence for evolution; a favourite lie is ‘there are no transitional fossils’.**” Has he forgotten the deceit of evolutionists in publishing the fraudulent ‘intermediates’ *Piltdown Man*

(1912-1953) and *Archaeoraptor* (2000)? Fossil bird expert Alan Feduccia wrote regarding fake intermediates from Liaoning Province, China: ‘*Archaeoraptor* is just the tip of the iceberg. There are scores of fossil fakes out there.’ So who is lying? The *New Scientist* article goes on to offer ten examples of evolutionary intermediates. It uses Darwin’s trick of taking a group of similar fossils, placing them in a sequence and assuming then that each bears an ancestor-descendant relationship to the most similar to them in the sequence. (Darwin explained his idea of the evolution of the eye by such suppositions.)

If the creationist worldview of all the fossils being buried in a worldwide flood is right, then we are looking at both distinct creatures and varieties of created kinds.

Reptiles have several bones in their lower jaw while mammals have a single bone. Mammals, unlike reptiles, have 3 bones in their inner ear. An intermediate with bones migrating from jaw to ear might find it difficult to either hear or eat!

“**During the Mesozoic era, numerous groups of land dwelling reptiles took to the waters and gradually evolved a fully marine lifestyle**” Prothero believes. And pigs learned to fly!

8 March p.7 Hobbits are cretins

Another expert has pronounced an opinion about the diminutive skeleton found in the island of Flores in Indonesia. The fossil bones are like dwarf humans. Cretinism is triggered by severe iodine deficiency. Others suggested they were an evolutionary offshoot of a line leading to *H. sapiens*.

8 March p.10 Has dark fluid saved Earth from oblivion

Some physicists think we should throw out dark matter in favour of a controversial new form of gravity. But “**if their theory**

is valid, the Earth should have been swallowed up long ago by black holes that would regularly appear in our solar system. Dark matter's opponents are not ready to give up just yet, though. A 'dark fluid' sloshing around galaxies like ours might just allow them to fight another day.

"Dark matter has been proposed to explain why spiral galaxies are not torn apart by their rapid rotation. The favoured view among cosmologists is that the gravitational force exerted by some kind of dark matter must be pulling the outer stars in... nobody has directly detected it."

Scientists look for a naturalistic explanation of how the universe began, despite the fact that it bears all the hallmarks of design, as expressed in the Anthropic Principle. Rather than accept the very first verse of Scripture, they continue to offer outlandish theories involving undetectable dark matter, dark energy and modified gravity, as well as multiverses. 'Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?' I Cor. 1:20.

8 March p.17 Isolation is the price weeds pay for staying at home.

"Population geneticist Pierre-Olivier Cheptou and his colleagues at the Centre for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology in Montpellier, France, studied a population of *Crepis sancta*, a small chicory-like weed that grows in the tiny patches of soil around city trees. *Crepis* can produce two types of seeds: one with a tuft like a dandelion seed, which helps it blow in the wind, and one which lacks the tuft and so falls near the parent plant. "Since seeds that leave the patch are unlikely to find another home (in the paving stones), being fluffy is a dead end. Sure

enough, urban populations produce a higher proportion of fluffless seeds than nearby rural populations... the inhabitants of such patches may quickly evolve to stay put."

This variation within a kind of *Crepis* weed involves natural selection, but has nothing to do with evolution. Those varieties with fluffy seeds do not germinate in the asphalt jungle, so leave the fluffless seeds to colonise the patch of soil around the tree.

All of Darwin's examples in his *Origin of Species* involve variation within a kind (finches' beaks etc.) and such variation is limited by the genes.

8 March p.36 Out on a limb

Orang-utans walk upright in the tops of trees, holding on to branches with their hands to spread their weight. Did our ancestors start walking upright on two legs before they came down from the trees, or were they knuckle-walkers? Experts disagree. That's no surprise since both views are erroneous.

15 March p.6 Human after all

It has been found that an island close to Flores in Indonesia was overrun by hobbit-sized humans about 1400 years ago. This challenges further (see 8 March p.7) the idea that *H. floresiensis* was a unique species of human. Remains of 26 individuals on Palau were similar in size to the Flores find. The jaw bones had characteristics unique to modern humans.

15 March p.19 East, west, ants know best

"Leafcutter ants navigate using an internal compass, and are the first invertebrates found to do so. Leafcutters are known to use stars and landmarks to help keep track of their position... [Researchers] picked up ants from foraging trails, turned them randomly and



Leafcutter ants, *Atta cephalotes*, at Bristol Zoo, UK. Photo: A. Pingstone, in the public domain.

dropped in a nearby spot devoid of landmarks and celestial cues. ‘We expected they would orient back toward the trail, because that’s the nearest thing they would recognise,’ says Srygley. Instead, most headed towards their nest. When the researchers used a powerful electromagnetic pulse to disrupt any magnetic sense, the ants set off in random directions. And when they reversed the magnetic field, about half the ants followed the new field lines and marched directly away from their nest. The ability could be important when heavy rains wash away the ants’ trails, says Srygley.”

One might have expected evolution to have retained such useful aids to navigation and passed them on to Christopher Columbus. And the Wright brothers could have done with sonar as used by primitive bats. However, we did copy these elegant ideas, which fact suggests that they were also designed in ants and bats by Intelligence.

22 March p.10 Stakes get higher in anti-matter puzzle

“It is one of the biggest mysteries in physics – where did all the antimatter go?

[following the hypothetical Big Bang]

‘Physicists think the explanation for this lies with the weak nuclear force, which differs from the other fundamental forces in that it does not act equally on matter and antimatter. This asymmetry, called CP violation, could have allowed the matter to survive to form the elements, stars and galaxies we see today.

‘The standard model, our best effort to describe the universe’s structure, fails to fully explain CP violation. Many alternative theories claim to have the answer...

However, they often invoke new particles, and experiments have yet to turn up evidence of these... the B_5 meson, which comprises a bottom antiquark bound to a strange quark... that transforms into its own antiparticle and back again 3 trillion times per second...”

All this hypothesising is unnecessary if one accepts that God created the heavens and the earth. As G K Chesterton noted, when men do not believe the Bible, it is not that they then believe in nothing but in anything.

22 March p.10 Soundbites

A Greek archaeologist comments on a clearly defined hole in a 1800-year-old skull. He thinks that doctors attempted brain surgery to try to save the woman, who had been hit on the crown of the head. “**We interpret the find as a case of complicated surgery which only a trained and specialised doctor could have attempted.**” Here is another example of the high degree of skilled technology from a former age. Such accomplishments may have been handed down through Noah - see for example the book review on pages 14-15, below.

29 March p.16 Being preened to perfection is no guarantee of success

“Was Darwin wrong about the sexual allure of the peacock’s tail? A controversial study in Japan has found no evidence for the traditional view that peahens choose their partners based on the quality of the peacocks’ tails.

“During the seven years of observation, Takahashi’s team observed 268 successful matings. But surprisingly they found that females mated with drab-tailed peacocks as often as with flashy males. They conclude that the peacock’s train is not the object of female sexual preference – at odds with Darwin’s theory of sexual selection.”

Tail quality was based on the number of eye-spots. A UK behavioural ecologist has already dismissed the study.

29 March p.17 Who are you calling slow?

“A lumbering reptile has stolen a march on us all. A study shows that New Zealand’s tuatara is the fastest-evolving animal known...

“The tuatara, *Sphenodon punctatus*, is a ‘living fossil’, virtually unchanged since dinosaurs roamed the Earth... even for a lizard, the tuatara is slow.”



Tuatara. Photo: R. Grant, from www.sxc.hu

However, analysis of mitochondrial DNA of 650 to 8,000-year-old remains compared with living tuataras showed that “**the reptile is evolving almost ten times as fast as the average animal. It is accumulating an average of 1.37 substitutions per base pair every million years.**” That’s 0.01 mutations per base pair in 8,000 years, actually half that amount since the flood. This loss of genetic information in the mitochondria is not evolution, and tuataras remain virtually unchanged with time.

29 March p.40 When the moon blows

An astrophysicist from New York has analysed over 1500 accounts of strange lights on the moon, dubbed transient lunar phenomena. There is strong evidence that they are caused by giant eruptions of gas.

“If he is right, the moon is not the stone-cold, dead satellite we thought it was and the eruptions may be due to residual volcanic activity... we would have to rewrite the moon’s geological history.”

Could it be that the moon is only a few thousand years old?

Most of the sightings (and they date back to at least the 10th century) are concentrated in just a handful of locations on the moon. Radon, a heavy radioactive inert gas has been detected on some occasions. There are massive lava ‘mares’ on the moon that are assumed to have been formed by volcanism billions of years ago. Maybe not!

5 April p. 11 Did sound once travel as fast as light?

One of the many difficulties with the big bang theory is that distant corners of the universe have much in common. Of course, if you accept that the origin of the universe is described in Genesis, this prob-

lem disappears. To get round the perceived difficulty, cosmologist João Magueijo suggested in the late 1990s that initially the speed of light was much higher than today. Experimental evidence for changing the speed of light in a vacuum has since been shown. Now Magueijo suggests that the speed of sound also might have been much greater at the beginning.

Creationist Barry Setterfield has also suggested that light travelled much faster at Creation, and related this to the rates of radioactive decay. Measurements have been made of the speed of light since Roemer first looked at the eclipse time for Io orbiting Jupiter in 1675. There has been a steady decrease in the measured values of c by various methods ever since. See CSM pamphlet 262.

5 April p.14 How Earth's poles went walkabouts

Measurements of the direction of magnetic fields in rocks suggest that in the past the Earth has precessed about its axis of rotation, with magnetic north migrating.

"They found that during several periods, all the continents appeared to be moving in unison relative to the magnetic field. That's evidence that the entire Earth was tilting markedly during those intervals, says Steinberger (*Nature*)."

Some creationists suspect that this might have happened during the worldwide flood when volcanism on a cataclysmic scale occurred, with a possible astronomical collision. It has been shown that changes in magnetic direction in the rocks sometimes happened over weeks or less, as measured by cooling rates of magma. The direction of field is not connected with Earth's magnetic field strength. This latter has been measured as decreasing exponentially with a half-life of only 1,400 years, which puts

an upper limit on the age of the Earth of some ten thousand years.

5 April p.40 Chambers of secrets

The illustrated article discusses the shellfish Nautilus, with its air-filled chambers in its shell that enable it to hover, sink or rise up in the sea. Although there are seven species about today, fossils suggest there have been 300 species. Genetic studies group these into the hairy nautilus *Allonautilus scrobiculatus* and all the rest. These are variations rather than different kinds. The shellfish can operate down to a depth of some 400 metres, using osmosis of salt and gas production to adjust their buoyancy. They are beautifully designed, both visually and mechanically.

"Nautiluses have long fascinated biologists because they are considered to be 'living fossils' – species that have defied the evolutionary odds to survive virtually unchanged for tens or hundreds of millions of years. Like the coelacanths, horseshoe crabs, tuatara lizards, sharks and crocodiles, today's nautiluses are all but indistinguishable from their distant fossilised ancestors."



Live Nautilus. Photo: A. Pickard, from www.sxc.hu

Their oxygenated blood is blue, using the copper pigment haemocyanin, unlike mammals' iron-based haemoglobin.

12 April p.26 How the cosmos was conquered

"It is lucky for us that the infant universe did not behave the way our best cosmic theories would have it. Nearly 14 billion years ago, the big bang forged equal amounts of matter and its nemesis, antimatter. These should have annihilated each other in bursts of pure radiation, leaving a universe filled with light. Instead though, it is full of stars and planets and gas – something threw a cosmic spanner in the works."

"The stars and galaxies that light up the heavens would not exist today if matter had not won out over antimatter at some very early time in the evolution of the universe. How and when did this happen? Why is there something rather than nothing? These questions are at the root of our very existence, but as yet science has no clear answers."

This is because today's science insists that 'Nature' is all there is, and ignores the truth that God made the earth by His power, established the world by His wisdom and stretched out the heavens by His discretion (Jer. 10:12). The article concludes sadly: **"Like it or not, the universe may never reveal all its secrets."** Fortunately, the One who fashioned it has revealed not only the secrets, but Himself. Why be willingly ignorant? Why will ye die?

12 April p.46 Warning! They've got designs on you

"Will movie-goers be seduced by a documentary which claims that Darwin's theories set us on the road to genocide?"

"The film-makers' logic is that by teaching evolution, the US public school sys-

tem is telling children that there is no God, morality or free will. And this can lead to only one thing: Holocaust."

The film that so concerns this reviewer is *Expelled: No intelligence needed*, that argues that Intelligent Design (ID) is a scientific theory. The film points out that academic freedom is threatened as ID supporters are fired from their institutions or denied tenure. Journalists who report on ID are silenced or shunned. Needless to say, we know of such situations. One of the film's presenters is well known, having starred in a popular film, and *Expelled* will open on 1,000 screens in the US. With creationism a majority belief in America, we have not heard the last of this.

12 April p.48 From scientism to religionism

Atheist Lawrence Krauss is a regular contributor to New Scientist. Here he complains that creationists refer to the view that science must explain everything without God as 'scientism'. He thinks that the view that there is a God should be referred to as 'religionism'. Dictionaries, including the most influential, Microsoft, list only the former.

"I once spoke at the Pontifical Academy of Science in the Vatican to a meeting that included theologians, biologists and cosmologists. I was discussing cosmology and I said, partly to be provocative, but also because it was true, that the theologians had to listen to me, but I didn't have to listen to them. Indeed, for modern theology to make any sense, it must take into account what we have found to be true about the physical universe. But as a cosmologist, theological revelations are irrelevant."

Looking back at p.26 of this week's issue as reported above, we read: **"as yet science has no clear answers"** and **"Like it or not,**

the universe may never reveal all its secrets.”

‘Understanding is a well-spring of life to him that has it: but the instruction of fools is folly.’ And Solomon should know.

19 April p.24 Evolution: A guide for the not-yet perplexed

Here is an 18 page article billed on this week’s cover as the ultimate guide to a beautiful theory. As the 150th anniversary of Darwin’s *magnum opus* approaches, Michael Le Page tells us that “**Darwin presented compelling evidence for evolution in *On the Origin* and since his time the case has become utterly overwhelming. Countless fossil discoveries have allowed us to trace the evolution of today’s organisms from earlier forms. DNA sequencing has confirmed beyond any doubt that all living creatures [sic] share a common origin.**” What the fossils really tell us is stasis – not change other than occasional extinction, and absence of intermediates between major kinds. DNA certainly proves common origin, but not by evolution. This information molecule shows a common Designer of all life forms. Could we assimilate cabbage if it did not have the same pattern of genes and biomolecules as our own?

“Innumerable examples of evolution in action can be seen all around us, from the famous pollution-matching pepper [sic] moth to the emergence of AIDS and H5N1 bird flu. Evolution is as firmly established a scientific fact as the roundness of the Earth.” Peppered moths have no more to do with evolution than the variation in population densities of various ethnic groups in Leicester over the past century. Viruses such as AIDS are pieces of genetic material that undergo rapid change, but need a host cell to reproduce. Hardly evolution in the Darwinian sense of

protozoan to people! It is not surprising that “**even in the UK, the birthplace of Darwin, one recent poll suggests less than half the population accepts evolution.**”

Le Page admits that “**It is very tempting to invent evolutionary ‘just so’ stories to explain almost any aspect of our body or behaviour.**”

Le Page points to the order of fossils in the geological column as proof of evolution. This would only be so if sediments were laid down over millions of years as evolution progressed. The fact that sedimentation occurred very quickly worldwide, as demonstrated in both the laboratory and the field, buries that argument. Le Page admits that “**evolution by natural selection requires vast stretches of time – deep time – as Darwin realised.**” Vast stretches of imagination, more likely.

Le Page points to what he calls junk DNA to argue that “**if life was designed, the designer was lazy, stupid and cruel.**” Yet there are an increasing number of examples of where so-called junk DNA has been shown to have uses.

“Not only that, if organisms had been designed for particular roles, they might be unable to adapt to changing conditions.” Variations, as found in all life-forms, show that organisms are indeed designed to adapt to different conditions. Polar and brown bears are varieties of the same kind, and can interbreed. There are genes for a variety of sizes of, say, codfish. Over-fishing of the large variety by using nets with large holes leads to a preponderance of small cod. This is not evolution. The article makes many extravagant claims, such as “**Having a smaller, weaker jaw allowed our ancestors to grow larger brains, but left less room for molars.**” It is changes in diet that crowd out wisdom teeth, while Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon

had larger brains than today's sapiens. Another such suggestion, innocent of any supporting evidence, is the following: "**What use is half a wing, they ask? Very useful, is the answer. The wings of insects might have evolved from flapping gills that came to be used for rowing on the surface of water. This is an example of exaptation – structures that evolved for one purpose taking on wholly new functions, while remaining useful at every intermediate stage.**" Notice the ploy. A way-out "might have evolved" is given a pseudo-scientific name unknown to the OED, and is thereupon cited as an example of evolution. Le Page's pre-breakfast exercises evidently have much in common with those of Lewis Carroll's Red Queen.

Having claimed the loss of faculties (sightless cave-fish) as evolution, the author then says that "**there is no doubt that evolution has produced ever more complex life forms over the past four billion years.**" He does not offer evidence; to him it's obvious.

He quotes the vertebrate eye with its blind spot as a flawed design. Yet the brain compensates for this without us being aware of it. Again, "**viruses and bacteria might approach perfection: we humans are at best a very rough first draft.**" He cites allergies, addictions and short-sightedness. Far from representing evolutionary progression, these are the products of a fallen world.

Such is this fundamentalist evolutionist's own blind spot that he refers to evolution theory as 'reality' and creationism as 'superstition'. Yet he gives statistics that show that even following years of indoctrination, half the populations in former Soviet territories such as Poland, Bulgaria and Latvia remain superstitious.

After wading through 18 pages of the best arguments that this 'beautiful theory' can

muster, your reviewer remains completely and hopelessly superstitious. Well, not hopelessly, actually! I am 'looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ'.

26 April p.28 Do you speak cuttlefish?

This interesting article explains how the cuttlefish uses three separate methods of changing its colouring, patterning and reflecting ability in order to camouflage itself. It also has various means of responding to particular predators. It all shouts design!

26 April p.50 Meet the real April fools

New Scientist's resident creationist-basher Lawrence Krauss here takes a swipe at the film *Expelled: No intelligence allowed*. "**It chronicles the problem of how to succeed in academia if one decides to attack science without a weapon which is not up to the task**" (One wonders about that double negative.). Surely by attacking the film Krauss is confirming the message that Intelligent Design promoters are boycotted by mainstream science.

Book review

The Puzzle of Ancient Man, evidence for advanced technology in past civilisations, by Donald Chittick, PhD, third edition 2006, Compass Creation publishers, 274 pages. £8-50 from CSM.

Popular culture has led us to believe that ancient man was primitive, originating from primates and steadily improving through a process of time and chance. But does that agree with reality? Was ancient man simple and primitive like the 'lost tribes' we see on television today, or did the level of science and technology existing thousands of years ago rival, or even surpass, the level of ours in the 21st century?

Many of the eyes of statues from the Old Kingdom of Egypt were perfectly ground and polished convex rock crystal lenses. Rock crystal goblets are found with the outsides and insides both highly polished. These Egyptians depicted the planet Saturn with rings, though they cannot be seen with the naked eye.

The Great Pyramid of Giza has a ratio of height to circumference of 1 to 2π , just like that of the radius to the circumference of a sphere. Its base of 13 acres is level to within 7/8ths of an inch. It is oriented within 3 minutes of a degree to true North/South/ East/ West. The limestone blocks ranged up to 200 tons in weight, and had to be lifted high into place with amazing accuracy.

The book describes the straight lines going beyond the horizon in the Nazca Desert in Peru, as well as the accomplishments of the

Mayans and Incas. (The former have left behind toys with wheels, giving the lie to the rumour that this civilisation did not have the wheel.)

CSM carry this fascinating book that suggests that Noah passed on his pre-Flood knowledge to our present world. **DR**

Letters

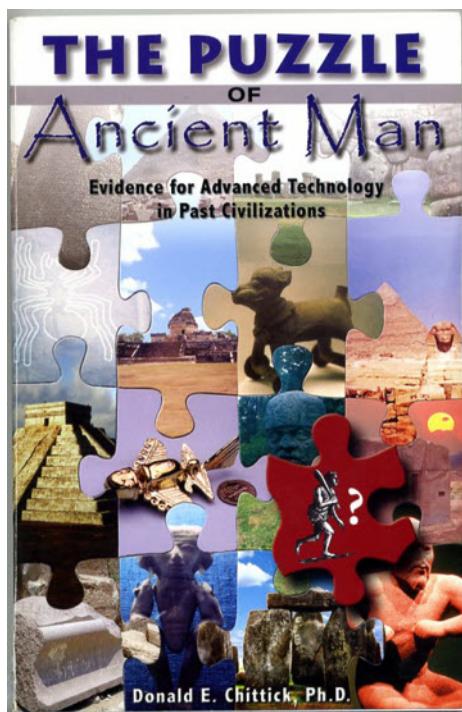
“Many thanks for sending on the Premier Radio CD *Unbelievable*. We had a good listen today and thought you did an admirable job of answering questions (when you got the chance!). I felt the program was heavily stacked against you! It’s sad that the main Christian radio station in the UK should be so unbalanced, 3:1 is not a fair debate...Our prayers are with you as you continue your invaluable ministry of evangelizing the Church, and providing answers to those outside. Many blessings! GC”.

“May I encourage you to say I think you are all doing a marvellous job at CSM and so consistently for such a long time, thanks! JL”.

“Thank you for the excellent articles and comments in the Creation Journal - always very helpful. With my prayers for your ministry. DK”.

Soundbites

“The scientific man is always on the road, never at journeys end. We necessarily work with incomplete materials and more or less inadequate tools. We have to build on foundations often poorly established, and no matter how clever or industrious we may



be, posterity will have to revise and correct much of what we have done. So true is this, that it is easy to become discouraged, and many do fall away and give up the quest.” (T. Cockerell, 1935, *Bios* 6: 372)

“When I was a child, my speech, feelings and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am a man, I have no more use for childish ways. What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror: then we shall see face to face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete - as complete as God’s knowledge of me.” (The Apostle Paul, 1 Cor. 13: 11-12.)

“Examples of vague or slippery definitions and appeals to the authority of consensus abound in writings about evolution, especially those writings that urge potentially sceptical people to trust the experts, rather than to examine the evidence for themselves.”

(Phillip E. Johnson, *The Leading Edge*, Touchstone Magazine, March 2008.)

Preparing the ground

Evangelists have noted that people are much more receptive to hearing the good news of the Gospel and the need for salvation if a creationist has already spoken on the falsity of Darwinian evolution and the erroneous scientific assumptions it is based upon. If you are organising an evangelistic event, why not consider inviting one of CSM’s speakers to participate. A bookstall of creationist books, pamphlets, DVDs and other materials can also be made available as appropriate.

With evangelism in mind, this issue of *Creation* is accompanied by a pamphlet particularly aimed at atheists who are uncomfortable with the implications of their worldview. We hope that the pamphlet will challenge them to reconsider their position and to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ as both their Creator and Redeemer. Further copies of the pamphlet are available from CSM.



Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. Articles, letters, notes and other contributions from new writers are warmly welcome.

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